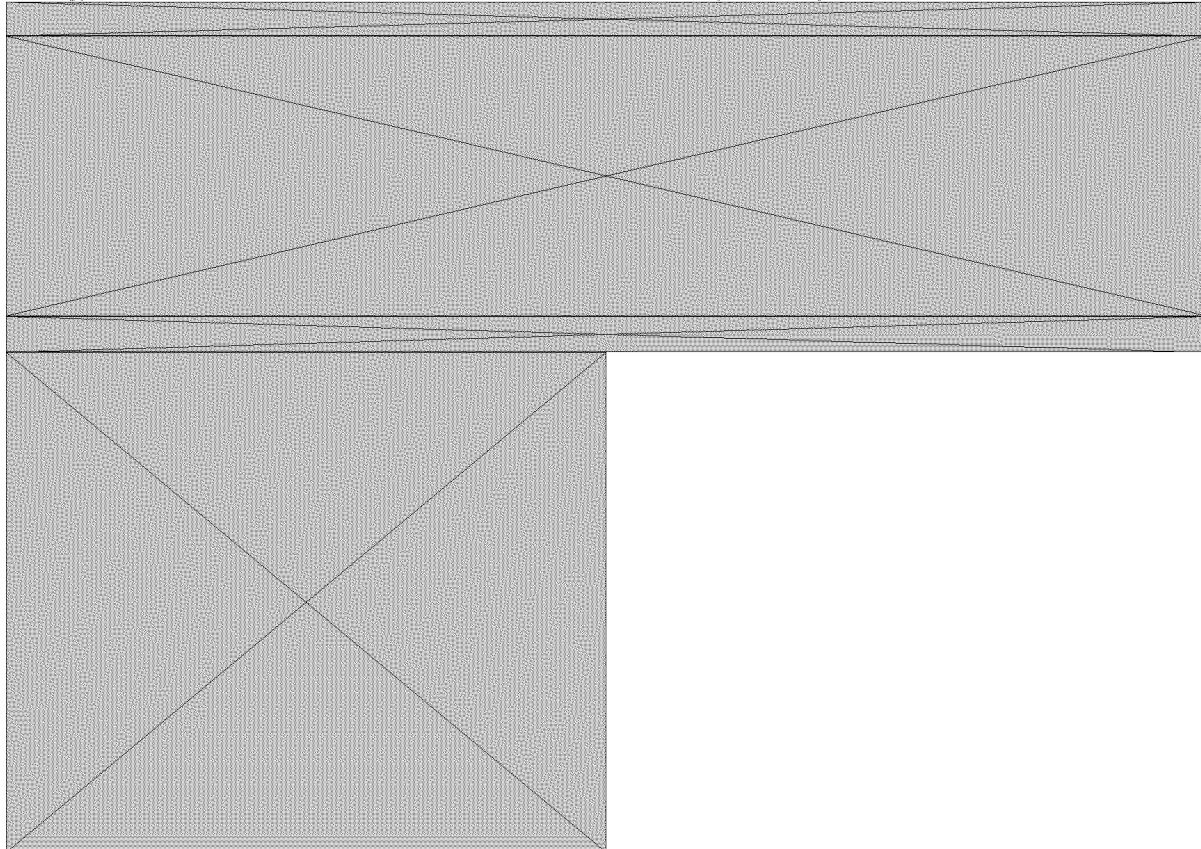


**To:** Melvin, Karen[Melvin.Karen@epa.gov]  
**From:** EnergyGuardian  
**Sent:** Tue 1/14/2014 11:16:39 PM  
**Subject:** Manchin to propose tougher regs on chemical storage

[Advertise](#) | [Contact](#)

Energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Tuesday, January 14, 2014



Manchin to propose tougher regs on chemical storage

By Edward Felker

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., said Tuesday he will author legislation to force regulation of toxic chemicals as a result of the coal processing chemical spill in his state that left hundreds of thousands without drinking water.

"We're working on it now. It should be tied into the (Safe) Drinking Water Act," he told reporters in the Capitol. "We're looking at everything, there shouldn't be anything that goes unmonitored or un-inspected."

The bill will cover disposal or storage facilities upstream of water sources and would require

inspections and set minimum standards, he said.

Manchin spoke as residents and businesses in the Charleston area were being cleared to resume use of tap water for the first time since a coal processing chemical leaked into the Elk River on Thursday. The leak sent an estimated 7,500 gallons of a chemical used to wash coal from a 40,000-gallon tank owned by Freedom Industries.

There have been no deaths from the spill.

Manchin deflected a question about whether the bill would impose additional federal red tape on the coal industry, which he has defended in the Senate.

"This should be federal, it's not just West Virginia, it could be anywhere," he said, noting that the tank was not subject to safety inspections. "Even though (the chemical) wasn't supposed to be toxic, lethal, it's still very hazardous. That should come under some kind of review process," he added.

Manchin said he has already spoken with Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who he said was receptive. "We're going to have something drafted as quickly as possible," he said.

He said he is talking to West Virginia officials to come up with the bill, and said they are also working on legislation at the state level. Manchin said he has yet to consult the Environmental Protection Agency, however, which administers the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The law, first passed in 1974, is used to protect underground and surface drinking water sources. EPA sets minimum standards for states and communities to meet in providing drinking water from about 160,000 public water systems.

Boxer plans to hold two hearings on the spill and chemical safety in early February, she told reporters. She said the hearings will come in addition to her efforts and those of other senators to update the Toxic Substances Control Act, which sets regulations on chemical safety.

"We're going to do more in the committee with that. It's really important to ask the questions, that if you have storage of dangerous chemicals near a drinking water supply, there needs to be some rules governing that and there just were not," she said.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board has already begun its own investigation of the spill.

## Quick Links

**[US oil prices rise, global crude slips](#)**

**[People wait for tap water to be cleared in W.Va.](#)**

**Boehner: Need better enforcement of safety rules**

UN nuclear agency to meet on Iran pact next week

**200 fleeing S. Sudan violence die after boat sinks, more fighting in oil state**

Russia to build new reactors at Hungary nuke plant

**Record North Dakota crude production in November**

Predictions of more cold weather send NY natural gas futures higher

**Boxer says Sen. panel will look into WV a spill**

Tougher rail tanker standards could be in place by 2015

**Omnibus spending bill retains most of the funding for energy, climate, environment programs**

Group of smaller drillers appeals Utah BLM dropping parcels from lease sale

**Extra safety measures might be needed for Bakken oil, might add to costs**

Shell, Gazprom hope to tap into shale oil in Siberia

**China backing out of thermal coal contracts as prices dive**

AFL-CIO wants to keep US crude export ban in place

**EPA's review of vehicle mpg ratings finds no new discrepancies**

New fight over Colorado renewable requirements

**Senate Democrats to press TV networks to cover climate change**

Analyst looks to Australia for next shale boom

**Upcoming Events**

US oil prices rise, global crude slips

**By The Associated Press**

The price of U.S. oil was up nearly 1 percent Tuesday along with a rising stock market. Global crude slipped, though, on the prospect of rising supplies from Libya, the

North Sea, and Iran.

Benchmark U.S. oil for February delivery rose 79 cents to close at \$92.59 a barrel in New York.

Brent crude, used to set prices for international varieties of crude used by many U.S. refineries, fell 86 cents to close at \$106.39 in London.

"The overall outlook for oil pricing has taken on an increasingly mixed look with the two main crude benchmarks responding to differing influences," wrote energy analyst Jim Ritterbusch in a report Tuesday.

The U.S. stock market rose 0.9 percent, in part on retail sales that were stronger than expected. That could mean demand for fuel, which has been rising in the U.S. in recent months, may continue to grow.

Still, the price of U.S. oil has fallen steadily since the beginning of the year because supplies of crude and fuels appear ample enough to offset rising demand. Tuesday marked only the third gain of the month for U.S. crude.

Global supplies could still be on the rise, which could mean lower prices for international crude, analysts say. Libyan crude production is beginning to ramp up after protests and unrest cut production late last year.

North Sea output is due to increase with the restart of the Buzzard oil field.

## More

### People wait for tap water to be cleared in W.Va.

By Ben Nuckols and Jonathan Mattise

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Downtown businesses and restaurants reopened Tuesday following last week's chemical spill, but people in and outside the city limits waited yet another day for officials to tell them their tap water was safe.

So far, about 35 percent of West Virginia American Water's customers have been allowed to use their water again after a chemical spilled into the Elk River on Thursday. The emergency closed schools, restaurants and businesses because they, along with about 300,000 residents, were told not to drink, shower or even wash clothes with the contaminated water.

Matthew Davis said his neighborhood was still waiting for the ban to be lifted. After rinsing off at a nearby creek last week, he finally enjoyed a hot shower Tuesday at his fiancée's house 30 minutes away.

Boehner: Need better enforcement of safety rules before the water ban.

BP's Elly Associated Press was Coke, and that hurt," Davis said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker John Boehner is suggesting that the Obama administration is doing a poor job of enforcing safety regulations designed to protect the public against disasters like the chemical spill into West Virginia's drinking water supply. "I don't think they're doing a good job," he said. "I'm skeptical about it," said Wanda Blake, a cashier in the electronics section of a Charleston Kmart who fears she was exposed to the tainted water. The Ohio Republican says the spill, the largest in the state's history, is a failure of federal safety and health regulations on the books. He says the Obama administration should be doing more and that the federal government should continue to fund the water filter and the water company said it could be days before the entire system is back. Officials lifted the ban in a strict, controlled manner. The Republican says the GOP considers burdensome and cost jobs.

### More

Last week's leak from a chemical storage facility into the Elk River tainted the water supply for 300,000 West Virginians. Government regulators considered it low risk and it got scant attention from them.

### UN nuclear agency to meet on Iran pact next week

By George Jahn

VIENNA (AP) — As diplomats worked on the next step of implementing a landmark Iran nuclear deal, the country's president described it Tuesday as a "surrender" of Western powers to Tehran's demands.

But the U.S. dismissed the comment as playing to a home audience and urged Iran to abide by the deal.

The Nov. 24 agreement commits Tehran to curb its nuclear programs in exchange for initial sanctions relief over six months as the two sides work toward a permanent agreement. The accord designates the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency to supervise Iranian compliance with terms of the deal.

The 35-nation IAEA board is expected to approve that role at a meeting set for Jan. 24, according to two diplomats. They demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the date ahead of an official IAEA announcement.

Iranian officials have been keen to portray the pact as advantageous to their country in easing sanctions in return for what they say are minimal nuclear concessions.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's remarks about the accord Tuesday appeared to be part of efforts to bring around hard-liners who have denounced the deal, claiming it tramples on Iran's nuclear rights. "Do you know what the Geneva agreement means? It

means the surrender of the big powers before the great Iranian nation," Rouhani told a crowd in the oil-rich province of Khuzestan.

### More

#### 200 fleeing S. Sudan violence die after boat sinks, more fighting in oil state

By Ilya Gridneff and Rodney Muhumuza

**JUBA, South Sudan (AP) —** A boat carrying civilians desperately fleeing heavy violence in South Sudan sank while crossing the Nile River, killing some 200 people, a military official said Tuesday, as fighting between rebels and government forces moved closer to the capital.

Warfare in the world's newest state has displaced more than 400,000 people since mid-December, with the front lines constantly shifting as loyalist troops and renegade forces gain and lose territory in battles often waged along ethnic lines.

A boat fleeing violence on the Nile carrying mostly women and children sank on Saturday, killing at least 200 people, according to Lt. Col Aguer, the South Sudanese military spokesman. He also said there was fighting about 70 kilometers (45 miles) north of the South Sudanese capital of Juba.

Heavy fighting erupted in Malakal, the capital of oil-producing Upper Nile state, which renegade forces briefly held before government troops retook it. The fighting began early Tuesday morning in the vicinity of the United Nations base in Malakal, with combatants using heavy machine guns and tanks, U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Stray bullets are reported to have landed inside the U.N. base, wounding people who sought shelter there, according to Nesirky. As a result of Tuesday's violence, he said, the number of people seeking refuge at the U.N. base in Malakal has nearly doubled to 20,000.

South Sudan has a history of ethnic rivalry, and its many tribes have long battled each other in recurring cycles of violence. Nearly 10,000 people have been killed in the latest fighting, according to one estimate by an International Crisis Group analyst.

### More

## **A message from the American Petroleum Institute**

**America is now the world's #1 natural gas producer and is expected to become #1 in oil by 2015. Smart energy policies can create jobs, grow our economy and establish America as a global energy leader.**

[Learn more at ChooseEnergy.org](http://ChooseEnergy.org)

---

## Russia to build new reactors at Hungary nuke plant

By The Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungarian officials say Russia will build two new reactors in the southern city of Paks, the site of Hungary's only nuclear power plant.

Janos Lazar, head of the prime minister's office, said that Russia will also give Hungary a loan covering around 80 percent of the construction costs estimated at between 10 and 12 billion euros (\$13.7-\$16.4 billion).

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and Russian President Vladimir Putin met Tuesday near Moscow, where an agreement on the project was signed.

The Paks plant provides around 40 percent of Hungary's electricity needs. It was built in the 1970s using Soviet technology.

Lazar said the first new reactor is expected to start production in 2023 and the completed project will boost the plant's capacity to around 50 percent of Hungary's demand.

---

## Record North Dakota crude production in November

North Dakota produced a record 973,045 barrels of crude a day in November from more than 10,000 wells, according to state figures, Platts reports.

[More](#)

---

## Predictions of more cold weather send NY natural gas futures higher

Natural gas futures are up for a third straight day in New York, on forecasts of a return to frigid temperatures, Bloomberg reports.

[More](#)

---

## Boxer says Sen. panel will look into WVa spill

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., promises that a subcommittee of her Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing next month about the chemical spill that hit the water supply of West Virginia's capital, National Journal reports.

[More](#)

---

## Tougher rail tanker standards could be in place by 2015

The Transportation Department said it is on track to propose new rail tanker safety standards by November and will accept comments early next year, but may accelerate that schedule, FuelFix reports.

[More](#)

### Omnibus spending bill retains most of the funding for energy, climate, environment programs

President Obama's energy and environment programs and the EPA budget were left mostly intact in the omnibus spending bill moving through Congress this week, E&E reports.

[More](#)

### Group of smaller drillers appeals Utah BLM dropping parcels from lease sale

The Western Energy Alliance has appealed a decision by the Bureau of Land Management to drop parcels in the San Rafael Swell area from an oil and gas lease sale last November, The Salt Lake Tribune reports.

[More](#)

### Extra safety measures might be needed for Bakken oil, might add to costs

Rail and pipeline companies might need to put extra safety measures in place to handle Bakken crude, and analysts warn the price of doing so could be significant, Bloomberg reports.

[More](#)

### Shell, Gazprom hope to tap into shale oil in Siberia

There are hopes that a joint Shell-Gazprom pilot program will lead to a full-scale fracking operation in Siberia, UPI reports.

[More](#)

### China backing out of thermal coal contracts as prices dive

With international prices for thermal coal dropping, Platts reports that Chinese buyers are walking away from contracts they'd previously agreed on.

[More](#)

### AFL-CIO wants to keep US crude export ban in place

The AFL-CIO has joined the ranks of those opposed to lifting the decades-old crude export ban, National Journal reports.

[More](#)

### EPA's review of vehicle mpg ratings finds no new discrepancies

Following settlement of a suit over auto mileage ratings, Environmental Protection

Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy said an audit found no new problems with published vehicle economy numbers, The Detroit News reports.

[More](#)

#### New fight over Colorado renewable requirements

Colorado Republicans have launched an effort to roll back a state law setting stiff renewable energy requirements for rural electric cooperatives, The Associated Press reports.

[More](#)

#### Senate Democrats to press TV networks to cover climate change

Senate Democrats formally kicked off their climate change task force Tuesday, with Vermont Independent Bernie Sanders joining others in gathering signatures for a letter urging television networks to give the issue more coverage, National Journal reports.

[More](#)

#### Analyst looks to Australia for next shale boom

Australia would be the best bet for the next shale boom, according to a Lux Research analysis, because of existing infrastructure and likely public support, FuelFix reports.

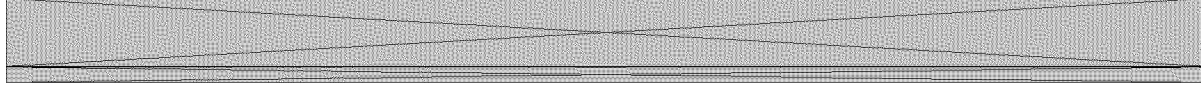
[More](#)

#### Upcoming Events

- Jan. 14, Washington: Brookings Institution forum, "The U.S. Unconventional Hydrocarbon Renaissance and Impact on Japan." Panelists include Washington Office of Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. general manager Hidehiro Muramatsu, and Shoichi Itoh, senior researcher, Institute of Energy Economics, Japan. 2:00 pm , 1775 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
- Jan. 14, Washington: Sen. Barbara Boxer, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, other Democratic senators hold press conference on goals of new Senate Climate Change Task Force. 12:00 pm , Capitol.
- Jan. 14, Washington: House Energy and Commerce Energy and Power Subcommittee business meeting on H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act. Continued from Monday. 10:00 am , Rayburn 2123.
- Jan. 14, Washington: House Natural Resources Committee hearing, "Oversight of the Obama Administration's Questionable Application of Sequestration to the Secure Rural Schools Program and the Costs to States, Local Economies, and Rural School Children." 10:00 am , Longworth 1324.
- Jan. 15, Washington: Senate Banking Committee hearing, "Regulating Financial Holding Companies and Physical Commodities." FERC Office of Enforcement Director Norman Bay, CFTC Division of Market Oversight Director Vince McGonagle, Federal Reserve System Division of Banking Supervision and

Regulation Director Michael Gibson to testify. 2:00 pm , Dirksen 538.

- Jan. 15, Washington: U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for 21st Century Energy holds media conference to issue 'Energy Works for US' policy agenda. 9:15 am , 1615 H St. N.W.



[Trouble seeing this email? Click here.](#)

To ensure you receive uninterrupted delivery, please add the address [energy@email.energyguardian.net](mailto:energy@email.energyguardian.net) to your email address book.

This email was sent to [melvin.karen@epa.gov](mailto:melvin.karen@epa.gov) by [energy@washingtonguardian.net](mailto:energy@washingtonguardian.net)  
To unsubscribe from this newsletter please [Click Here](#)

© 2012, [Packard Media Group LLC](#), all rights reserved | 13303 Packard Drive | Woodbridge, VA 22193  
[Privacy Policy](#)